

# Postal Service plans international series of stamps

17 Sep 1989

The U.S. Postal Service will join 23 foreign postal administrations, all members of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS), to dedicate an international series of stamps.

Premiering in October, on or around Columbus Day, in the North, South, and Central Americas and Spain, the first stamps in the new "America" series commemorate the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in America. The Series, which will consist of a limited number of issuances by each country over the next several years, is designed to familiarize the people of member countries with one another.

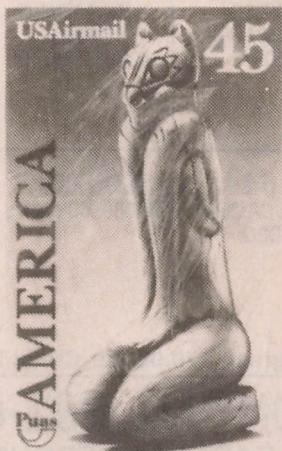
Each nation's first "America" Series stamps will honor the customs, images and traditions of native Americans whose tribes and ancient civilizations existed prior to Columbus's arrival on American shores.

The U.S. issues include a 25-cent commemorative and 45-cent airmail stamp. Designed by Lon Busch, both stamps will debut on October 12 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Postal Service Board of Governors member Tirso del Junco will be the featured speaker. Additional ceremony details will be announced in the near future.

Design guidelines for the "America" Series were established at the 1985 Congress of the PUAS. The word "America" and a special PUAS logo, created specifically for the Series, will appear on each nation's annual issuances.

The U.S. 25-cent vertical commemorative features an image of a carved ritual figure of the American Mimbres, a Southwest Indian culture existing before Columbus's arrival. The carving, a forerunner of the popular Hopi Indian "Kachina" doll, was used with permission from the Art Institute of Chicago. Its cyan and yellow totem-like image is adorned with feathers and appears against a background which fades from dark to light brown. The words, "25" and "USA," are printed in two lines of white type in the top left corner. Appearing in black type across the bottom are the words "Southwest carved figure, A.D. 1150-1350."

The 45-cent airmail issue, also vertically oriented, features an image of a carved wood figure commonly called the "Kay Marco Cat." Used with the permission of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the original artifact was excavated in 1896 by



Southwest carved figure, A.D. 700-1450



Southwest carved figure, A.D. 1150-1350

Frank Hamilton Cushing at Key Marco, Florida. It is a ceremonial figure of the Calusa culture which existed during the Pre-Columbian Mississippian period. "USAirmail" and "45" are printed in white type across the upper corners of the design. The words "Southwest carved figure, A.D. 700-1450" appear in black lettering across the bottom.

Both designs feature the word, "America," positioned above a PUAS logo, each printed in black along the left side of the vignette from bottom to top.

Since its creation in 1931, PUAS member nations have worked together to enhance the exchange of mail and promote common interests. Originally founded in 1911 as the South American Postal Union, it consisted of only 10 South American states. Today, the PUAS boasts 24 member nations stretching geographically from Canada to Spain to Argentina. The United States joined in 1922.

Future "America" Series stamps will honor significant events related to the discovery of the "New World," including the natural setting seen by the first explorers and famous discovery voyages.



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# World Stamp Expo '89 set

The ceremonial opening to one of the premier philatelic events in years will feature reproductions of classic collectible treasures from over a century ago.

A miniature souvenir sheet celebrating World Stamp Expo '89 will be issued on the first day of the exhibition, Nov. 17. This is the first of 11 stamps and postal stationery items to be released by the Postal Service during the two-week bonanza. Several foreign countries also are planning first day events during World

Stamp Expo '89. The imperforate sheet features reproductions of the classic 90-cent Lincoln stamp of 1869 and three color trial proofs of the same design in a block of four.

World Stamp Expo '89, the first international stamp show directly sponsored by the Postal Service in its 214-year history, will open its doors at 10 a.m. on Nov. 17 at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center, and will run from Nov. 17-20 and Nov. 24-Dec. 3.

1989

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